

MEMORANDUM

• NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

*Noted by HAK*~~SECRET/SPOKE~~INFORMATION  
December 6, 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: DR. KISSINGER  
FROM: PHIL ODEEN *PO*  
SUBJECT: Rapid Reconstruction in North Vietnam

The attached DIA assessment indicates that NVN has rapidly restored its transportation system north of the 20th parallel bombing limit, that the NVN import level has returned to the pre-mining level, and that repair of electric generation facilities and industry is proceeding.

-- Both the northeast and northwest rail lines are open for through traffic from China to the Hanoi area.

-- Coastal shipping has resumed north of 20 degrees and inland waterway traffic was heavy in November.

-- Planned shipments from China to NVN in November were 220,000 tons, equal to the peak monthly imports through Haiphong before the mining.

-- Of this total 90,000 was to move into NVN by road, 78,000 by rail, 36,000 by pipeline, and 16,000 by water.

-- Repairs to electric generating facilities increased operational capacity from 30 to 37% with 50% expected to be reached by the end of December.

-- Repair of industrial facilities appears to have a lower priority although the Haiphong cement plant was reopened, supplying a commodity needed for repair of the transportation system.

-- Return toward economic normalcy is reflected in the resumption of fruit and fish exports to Eastern Europe.

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-- Training for MIG pilots in both air intercept and ground attack operations has substantially increased. A number of SAM units are moving, generally southward, including into South Laos.

#### Panhandle Activity

Despite the concentration of U.S. air efforts in the panhandle (south of 20 degrees), the enemy continues to move a large volume of supplies through the interdiction area.

-- Air strikes have kept the panhandle rail lines closed to through traffic.

-- Enemy repair efforts on roads and bridges have increased; the number of trucks being used in the panhandle has increased.

-- Intercepts from one supply command showed 12,000 tons to be moved in November compared with 15,000 in October and 10,000 in September.

-- Despite supply movement problems because of the air attacks and the increasingly wet weather, the enemy in Quang Tri did not appear to be supply constrained; about 35 tons of large caliber ammunition were fired daily in November compared with 12 tons per day in October.

-- All major POL depots south of 20 degrees have been attacked. In the Vinh and Co Chau areas 40% of pipeline depot capacity has been destroyed, but POL movements south of 20 degrees appear to be meeting essential military requirements.

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